

Bloomfield Citizen.

WEEKLY JOURNAL

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THE CITIZEN solicits contributions from the general public on any subject—political, religious, educational, or social—so long as they do not contain any personal attack.

All communications must be accompanied by the writer's name, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith.

Advertisements for insertion in the current week must be in hand not later than Friday noon.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1904.

An Ancient Problem.

At the meeting of the Town Council on Monday night Town Clerk Wm. L. Johnson brought to the attention of the Council an unsettled sewerage question of long standing. The statement of the case by the Clerk was practically as follows:

In 1894, when the Montclair outlet sewer was built along streets in this town to the junction to the main outlet sewer at Newark avenue and Franklin street, this town was a party in the contract for the building of the sewer to the extent of \$4,000 of the cost of the work. In addition to the construction of the main sewer extra work was done in the way of house connections and general sewers involving an expense of \$619.60, which sum, it is claimed, is still due to Montclair, and which the town wants to have settled in some way. The larger amount—\$4,000—was paid out of the sewer bond issue. The smaller amount was not paid, because it was alleged that the provisions of the agreement between the two towns in regard to the sewer were not carried out. It was claimed by the local authorities that the contract called for the placing of a suitable apparatus for measuring the flow of sewage to be placed in the sewer at the boundary line between the two towns in order to determine correctly the proportion of each town's sewerage flow into the union outlet sewer, and also another measuring gate at the junction with the union outlet. These provisions were not carried out and Bloomfield officials declined to pay until they were. At the time the dispute arose Engineer Clements Herschel was selected as an arbitrator of the question at issue, but his findings were not accepted and the measurement of the sewage by depth of flow is still the practice. The Montclair people want the matter settled in some way. It is probable that if this town will waive the clause of the contract calling for measuring gates Montclair may waive its smaller claim. The question was referred to the Sewer Committee Monday night for investigation and report. It is a rather late time for the present Council to undertake action on such an ancient issue.

Troubles of a Water Plant.

Lorton McDermott, formerly in the employ of the Orange Water Company, and now superintendent of the East Orange city water plant, is well-known in this town where he has many friends who will be interested to learn that Mr. McDermott has made a record as a "stay awake." When Mr. McDermott went to his home Tuesday afternoon he had completed one hundred and seven hours' work, during which time he had not had one hour's sleep. This is said to be the record for a single stretch of work in the city department.

The reason for this long deprivation from sleep was the breakage in several places of the water mains in the streets. Breaks in five different localities occurred between Friday night and Tuesday. The frequent breakages of the water mains in East Orange since the city purchased the plant from the Orange Water Company has been a matter of comment, and some of it of a causal nature. It must be that the mains are subject to greater strain by reason of increased consumption of water since the city assumed control of the plant. The Orange Water Company, which still retains and operates the Bloomfield portion of its plant, has had no such trouble as has been experienced in East Orange.

There has been a large wastage of water going on in East Orange during the past winter, has been discovered by the private investigation and inquiry on the part of city officials. It is to this extraordinary wastage that the breakages are probably attributable.

The East Orange water department is finely equipped for all kinds of new work and repair work in connection with water mains. A working and storage department is maintained under the city hall. There the pipes, connections, hydrants, sledges, machinery and every single thing that could be used is properly arranged, even to the point to protect men from the inclemency of the weather, so that a person may on a moment's notice get what is required. It was pointed out that the use of the

R. N. Dodd building here for municipal purposes afforded this town a suitable place for the maintenance of just such a department as is now maintained by East Orange.

State Board of Taxation.

The State Board of Taxation will hold a meeting in the Council rooms here on Wednesday, when a hearing will be given to a number of appellants who object to the assessments levied upon their respective properties by the Board of Assessors, and who have been unsuccessful in their appeal to the local Board of Commissioners of Appeal. There is an increase in the number of appeal cases carried this year to the State Board. The decision that will be rendered in these cases will have an important bearing on the assessment of property in this town in the next fiscal year, and the town revenue will be correspondingly effected, and the tax rate in no small degree depends upon the decision.

The important and far-reaching effects of the State Board's decisions in cases of disputed assessments on private property are due to the fact that a basis is established by such decisions for the assessment of all the property adjoining and adjacent to that of a successful appellant.

The small increase in tax valuations in this town last year was not due so much to a lack of growth as to the fact that reductions in assessments to the amount of several thousand dollars were made in localities where the State Board had reduced the assessment of an appellant.

From a general view of the situation, it appears but natural that where an aggrieved taxpayer carries his case to the State Board and wins, his neighbors expect and demand some benefit from the victory, and if they do not get it in the form of reduced valuations, they too, resolve to go before the State Board.

Property-owners here who have carried their cases up from the local Board of Appeals to the State Board have in the main been successful, and this success has attracted other property-owners, and stimulated them to try the same medium for securing a reduction in the amount of their taxes. One of the results of these successful appeals to the higher body has been followed by a steadily increasing indifference towards the views and opinions of the members of the local Board of Appeals, and that body is likely soon to become a non-entity in the matter of tax appeals.

The members of the State Board of Taxation should make themselves familiar with the general financial conditions prevailing here in Bloomfield before arbitrarily ordering reductions in individual property assessments. The sum total to taxable valuations here compared with Montclair and East Orange should be given consideration.

Due consideration should also be given to the fact that the large amounts of the desirable local revenue go to the county treasury and to the support of public schools. When proper consideration is given to the limited sources of revenue here in Bloomfield, and to the two items of expense to which the larger portion of the revenue is applied, it is apparent that outside of the county and school tax there is but a meager amount applicable for general town purposes, and the reason that Bloomfield does not have some of the up-to-date conveniences of neighboring towns is simply because the town cannot afford them, and it is a laborious study to make both ends meet as it is, with the limited means at hand.

If the members of the State Board will familiarize themselves with the financial situation here it will at once be made apparent to them that their policy of making reductions in assessments here simply confers a slight benefit upon an individual, and increases the burden of the general body of taxpayers. Bloomfield, as a whole, is assessed and taxed to the limit, and to remove an atom of the burden from an individual means that it must be added to the general burden in some other way.

The State Board is charged with the demoralization of assessments here in 1903 by making it imperative upon the Board of Assessors to allow wholesale reductions in localities where the State Board ordered individual reductions. Is that same course to be repeated this year, and the tax rate forced up to an excessive figure? Much depends on the action taken next Wednesday.

Mad Accident.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas O'Rourke of No. 128 Orange street, met with a sad affliction Thursday in the accidental death of their infant son Thomas, aged twenty-two months. The child fell into a tub of water and was drowned. The circumstances of the accident are said to be as follows: Mrs. O'Rourke was engaged with the family wash Thursday and the child was playing about the floor. A wash tub stood on the floor with about three inches of water in it. Before Mrs. O'Rourke went out to the yard to look after some clothes on the line she covered the wash tub with a large basket. When she returned to her room the child was laying in the tub dead.

The mother was frantic with excitement and a physician was hastily sent for. Dr. J. S. Wolfe responded. He found that the child had died from strangulation. The county physician was notified of the accident and viewed the body and granted a burial permit.

With Unfurled the Flag.

"We will unfurl the flag," said Rev. Dr. R. S. MacArthur, the well-known Baptist clergyman, in speaking to a resident of this town in regard to his lecture here Monday night. Dr. MacArthur has been secured by the First Presbyterian Church Guild as the lecturer in the eighth entertainment of the Guild course, which takes place Monday night, and his subject will be "America's Great Place Among the Nations." The subject is a patriotic one, and outside of his pulpit work, Dr. MacArthur has a high reputation as a speaker on themes that are aglow with patriotic sentiment. He enthuses over America and its possibilities, and imparts his enthusiasm to his audience, and no doubt the old church will reverberate with applause Monday night. When the Doctor says emphatically that "we will unfurl the flag," Bloomfielders are given the assurance that a grand time is in store for them. The warlike trend of events throughout the world add to the significance of the theme, and Dr. MacArthur can be relied upon to make the most of the opportunity. There is no doubt at all but what the Doctor's audience will go away with enlarged and lofty views of America's position as a world power.

The Mystery of 1903.

The retail liquor dealers in this town who confine themselves exclusively in a business way to the sale of liquors, beer, and other beverages necessary to a saloon or hotel business are to a certain extent opposed to be forced into competition with rivals in trade who combine the liquor and grocery business under one head, and who by reason of that combination have opportunities for the sale of liquors that saloon-men and hotel-keepers do not have and cannot get. The State and local associations of saloon and hotel men have given considerable attention to the question of the sale of liquors by grocers, and have declared against it.

Last year when the Town Council of this town, without previous warning or intimation, and apparently without aid, suggestion or advice by a unanimous vote refused the renewal of a license to combination grocery and liquor store, the public was at first amazed and then highly pleased. Congratulations were extended to the members of the anti-saloon league, but the congratulations were declined as undeserved and unearned. The anti-saloon league was as much surprised as the general public and to this day the motives and influences that actuated the Council's action have remained a mystery. The thing happened with such spontaneity that one member of the Council who voted in the affirmative was not aware of what had happened for several days afterward. The Council never took the public into its confidence in that matter, and it has never been shown that the public in general was at all displeased over the affair, in fact members of the Council received more congratulations of approbation than complaints of disapproval over their action.

But the story of how the license was voted down is only about half as interesting as the story the Councilmen could tell of the great pressure that was brought to bear on the Council's action reconsidered. The people who congratulated the Councilmen for the step taken would doubly congratulate them if they knew the influences the Council resisted in refusing to reconsider.

None of the heaviest political and legal influences that could be brought to bear upon members of the Council were exerted, but without effect. The Councilmen stood like stone walls, both in their mysterious reticence over what they had done and their steady refusal to reconsider. People who are now carping about Councilmen's actions should reflect upon their attitude towards the Council in July 1903. Then it was, "hats off to the Councilmen."

Lackawanna's New Boats.

The contract has been awarded to the Newport News Shipbuilding and Engine Company by the Lackawanna Railroad for four large, steel, screw, double decked ferry boats, to be operated in connection with their new 231 street ferry. As in the designs for the ferry terminal, no expense has been spared by the Lackawanna road to make these new ferry boats a distinct advance over anything that has been attempted in the ferry service of New York. The new boats will have a length of 331 feet, beam of 62 feet, a draught of water of 10 feet 6 inches.

Schubert Concert.

The Schubert Vocal Society of Newark, Louis Arthur Russell, conductor, will give Franz Liszt's oratorio, "The Legend of St. Elizabeth," at Wallace Hall, on Wednesday evening, March 2, with the assistance of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra. The soloists will be Marie Zimmerman, as Saint Elizabeth; Dr. Carl E. Dufft, as Ludwig; Mary Louise Clary, as Landgravine Sophie.

A Social Event.

A reception was given to Miss Christina Mackintosh by a number of her friends at the home of her parents, 21 Lawrence street, Friday evening of last week, at which games were played and vocal and instrumental selections were indulged in. Miss Mackintosh has just returned from Maine, where she has been spending the winter for the good of her health, which is very much improved.

Cromwell to Christiana, Queen of the Swedes.

By JOHN MITTON.
Queen, Militant of Northern Europe high,
Christina, brightest star of arctic sky,
See thou what deeply furrowed brow is mine,
Since to old age in strenuous arms I shine;
In the unbroken ways of war have fought,
And people's stern demands alone have sought,
Till now no longer seek to frown on kings.
(Translated into iambics from Milton's Latin Poems.)

BLOOMFIELD, N. J., February 22, 1904.
Another translation in trochees and dactyly, by a different hand, at the same time:
Virginia, mighty in battle, queen of the North,
Britannia, star of the Arctic heavens—Christina;
Thou discernest my hard earned, helmeted, furrowed;
How grown old, still at arms alert, I exhaust
My frame, while blazing my way, unbroken yet
Executive by force the people's strong orders.
But more humbly to them the brow is submitted
Nor to kings are these features terror-inspiring.

"Pete," a pet dog belonging to Town Clerk William L. Johnson, and a mascot of Essex Truck Company, died on Monday. The animal was 15 years of age.

Two Concerts

IN

MEMORIAL HALL,

Fremont and Franklin Streets,

Tuesday Evening, March 8th,

Thursday Evening, April 7th,

FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE

Jarvie Memorial Library.

The following artists have been engaged for these concerts.

Banner-Kronold String Quartette

CONSISTING OF

MICHAEL BANNER, Violin.

RICHARD POLTMAN, 2d Violin.

HANS KRONOLD, 'Cello.

PHILIP HERFORD, Viola.



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NEW ACCOUNTS RECEIVED

Interest Dividends Declared Jan. 1st and July 1st.



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